

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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ENTRANCE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN HALL

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## CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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### *January Announcement*

THE regular January meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Assembly Room (third floor) of the San Francisco Public Library on Wednesday evening, January 3, 1940, at 8 o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Charles Edward Smith, Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, whose subject will be "The Epidemiology of San Joaquin Fever (Acute Infection by *Coccidioides immitis*).<sup>1</sup>" Illustrated by slides and motion pictures.

This study is the result of the joint discovery by Dr. M. A. Gifford of the Kern County Health Department and the late Dr. E. C. Dickson of Stanford Medical School that this common illness is caused by the fungus *Coccidioides immitis*. The investigation has been unique in that it has been a coöperative one enlisting the County Medical Societies and practically all other physicians, the County Health Departments, Boards of Education, Farm Security Administration, hospital laboratories and large ranches of Kern and Tulare Counties, together with the Rosenberg Foundation and the Stanford Medical School. As spokesman for this group, Dr. C. E. Smith of Stanford will discuss its findings.

The public is cordially invited to hear Dr. Smith.



NOTICE is hereby given to all CORPORATE MEMBERS that the Council at its meeting December 15, 1939, approved the applications of Mr. J. M. Barclay, Mr. Frank J. Corrigan, Mr. C. Ernest Davis, Mr. Graham Heid, Mr. Alexander Horne, Mr. J. R. Kinghorn, Dr. Alfred C. Reed, Mr. H. E. Sovereign, Mrs. Ruby L. C. Sovereign, and Mr. Paul Wormser for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after December 28, they will be considered elected.

OLAF P. JENKINS, *Recording Secretary*

## MISS BOYD ELECTED A TRUSTEE

ON October 30, 1939, Miss Louise A. Boyd was elected by the Board of Trustees of the California Academy of Sciences to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mrs. Alexander F. Morrison. Few persons could so well qualify to be the successor of Mrs. Morrison, whose gracious personality so won the hearts of her friends and associates, and whose keen interest in scientific and educational institutions remained paramount throughout a busy life.

Miss Boyd is perhaps best known as an explorer of the vast Arctic regions where her expeditions, particularly to Franz Josef Land and Greenland, have added greatly to our knowledge of their geographical features and botanical resources. Miss Boyd recently presented the Botany Department of the California Academy of Sciences with an outstanding collection of the plants taken on her 1937 expedition to the east coast of Greenland. It is probably the most complete representation of the flora of that little known land, containing 993 specimens, 55 of which are mosses and 22 lichens. The collections were made in more than seventeen different localities. The collection of *Carex* is especially noteworthy not only because of the many species represented, but also because it contains one species not heretofore known from North America.

Miss Boyd has received world-wide recognition of her remarkable achievements in polar exploration. Among the distinctions conferred upon her may be mentioned that of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France, the Andree Plaque of the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society, and the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society. She furthermore has the distinguished honor of being the first foreign woman to receive the decoration of the order of St. Olaf of Norway.